

FREIGHT AND GOODS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM (FGTS) UPDATE

BRIEFING PAPER

Prepared for the
March 2004 Transportation Commission Meeting

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PURPOSE:

To present the final Freight and Goods Transportation System (FGTS) 2003 Update to the Transportation Commission for adoption. This update covers state and local roads that carry more than 4 million tons per year (T-1 and T-2 designations). A summary of the FGTS Update was presented and discussed at the February Commission meeting.

BACKGROUND:

This is the third update of the FGTS since the first final report was adopted in 1995. In February, the Commission received draft maps and tables and a briefing paper describing the 2003 FGTS Update and changes since 2001. The FGTS report is now finalized for adoption by the Commission in March and Freight Mobility Strategic Investment Board (FMSIB) in April. A draft Resolution for the Commission is attached and has been submitted to Steve Reinmuth for review.

WSDOT has no mandated interval for FGTS updates, but FMSIB is required by statute to update the list of designated of strategic freight corridors not less than every two years (RCW 47.06A.020(3)). WSDOT is directed to provide staff support to FMSIB (RCW 47.06A.040), (so at a minimum) WSDOT updates the list of T-1 and T-2 roadways every two years to assist in strategic freight corridor designation.

DISCUSSION:

The significance of T-1 and T-2 roadways (those roads carrying more than 4 million tons of freight per year) is that these are the only roads eligible for designation as strategic freight corridors per RCW 47.06A.010, with case-by-case exceptions by FMSIB. Only T-1 and T-2 roadways were updated in 2003, except where additional data was available for city streets.

A total of 130 road miles changed FGTS designation in 2003, resulting in a net gain of approximately 43 miles in the T-1/T-2 set since 2001 (a 1.8% gain). T-1 and T-2 roads account for 34% of all state route miles, with a total of 2,430 miles.

The County Road Administration Board (CRAB) and the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) contributed to the 2003 FGTS Update by contributing data or asking their

members to contribute to WSDOT directly. For the first time, the 2003 update includes a comparison of county road data from 2001 to 2003.

Publication and distribution of the new FGTS will take place after adoption by the Commission and FMSIB.

RECOMMENDATION:

WSDOT recommends that the Commission adopt the 2003 FGTS Update.

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